

Message Text

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21/60

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TO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

USCINC EUR PRIORITY

USLOSACLANT PRIORITY

CINCLANT PRIORITY

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y/ALL NATO CAPITALS ADDED AS ADDRESSEE.

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PFOR, MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: NATO STANDARDIZATION

REF: A) USNATO 5671 DTG 171610Z OCT 75; B) USNATO 5383

DTG 021750Z OCT 75; C) STATE 219715 DTG 1523L1Z SEP 75;

D) STATE 200959 DTG 222356Z AUG 75; E) STATE 176498

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G) USNATO 5724 DTG 211620Z OCT 75

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USNATO - HOLD FOR OPENING OF BUSINESS

1. BASED ON TELCONS SUBSEQUENT TO REF F, WE UNDERSTAND THAT OTHER NATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED PO. WE ALSO APPRECIATE MISSION'S CONCERNS REGARDING ANY U.S. FOOT-DRAGGING OR REDRAFTING AT THIS POINT AND ITS IMPACT ON FUTURE PROGRESS OF STANDARDIZATION. WE ARE THEREFORE PREPARED TO APPROVE THE PO IN PRINCIPLE AS A FIRST STEP IN MOVING TOWARD OUR ULTIMATE STANDARDIZATION GOALS.

2. MISSION SHOULD BE AWARE, HOWEVER, THAT WE FIND THIS PO LACKING IN SEVERAL RESPECTS: THE PROPOSED AD HOC COMMITTEE IS NOT SUFFICIENTLY IDENTIFIED AS A BODY WORKING DIRECTLY FOR AND RESPONSIBLE SOLELY TO THE NAC; THIS

FACTOR REINFORCES THE NARROWNESS OF THE STATED "TASKS" WHICH APPEAR TO PUT OFF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS TO SOME FUTURE STAGE OR GROUP. AS DESCRIBED, THE AD HOC COMMITTEE WOULD SEEM TO NEED TO CLEAR ITS WORK WITH THE CNAD'S BEFORE THE NAC IS TO CONSIDER IT.

3. WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO YOUR MAKING OUR REACTION KNOWN PRIVATELY. MOREOVER, IF ANY MEMBER SHOULD INSIST ON DISCUSSION OF PO WITH A VIEW TOWARD MAKING CHANGES, YOU SHOULD NOT OBJECT. SHOULD THIS OCCUR, THE FOLLOWING ARE MAJOR POINTS WHICH WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE REFLECTED IN THIS PO:

A. TITLE INDICATING A BROADER MANDATE AND INCLUDING THE WORD "STANDARDIZATION" WOULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE. WE WOULD LIKE TO KEEP THE ISSUE OF STANDARDIZATION IN PERSPECTIVE AS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT, ALONG WITH INTEROPERABILITY AND OTHERS, IN THE BROADER RATIONALIZATION OBJECTIVE. TO CALL THE NAC COMMITTEE AN "AD HOC COMMITTEE ON PROCUREMENT OF ARMAMENTS" IS TOO RESTRICTIVE, AND IS NOT FULLY DESCRIPTIVE OF THE RANGE OF TASKS THIS GROUP COULD UNDERTAKE (PARA 3, REF C). FURTHER, ABSENCE OF CONCEPTUAL WORD "STANDARDIZATION" COULD PROVIDE PRETEXT FOR THOSE WHO IN THE FUTURE WISH

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TO KEEP FOCUS OF GROUP (OR OF NATO EFFORTS AT STANDARDIZATION) NARROWLY CHanneled.

B. IN GENERAL, WE WISH TO SEE THE MANDATE OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE BROADENED TO INCLUDE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES, WITH THE FOCUS ON STANDARDIZATION, RATHER THAN LIMITED TO ARMAMENTS PROCUREMENT. WHILE WE AGREE WITH MOST OF THE "TASKS" LISTED IN THE PO, WE ARE NOT

CONVINCED THAT THE DETAIL IN PARA 3(B), REF A, IS NECESSARY; IN ITS EXPLICITNESS, IT APPEARS TO REINFORCE THE VIEW THAT THE GROUP IS LARGELY A TECHNICAL BODY, RATHER THAN ONE WHICH IS COMPETENT TO ASSIST THE COUNCIL DIRECTLY WITH THE BROAD SWEEP OF ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH RATIONALIZATION/STANDARDIZATION. WE WOULD PREFER TO HAVE THIS SECTION OF PO AMENDED ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES: "B. TO CONSIDER THE STEPS WHICH WOULD BE NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE DRAFT NATO POLICY EFFECTIVELY ONCE AGREED; TO REVIEW THE TERMS OF REFERENCE IN SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES OF BODIES DEALING WITH STANDARDIZATION AND RELATED MATTERS WITHIN NATO OR IN WHICH MEMBERS OF NATO PARTICIPATE; AND TO MAKE SUITABLE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COUNCIL, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ALL FACTORS, INCLUDING POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC."

C. WE VIEW PROPOSED AD HOC COMMITTEE AS RESPONSIBLE DIRECTLY AND SOLELY TO THE NAC. THUS, WE DO NOT THINK IT APPROPRIATE (PARA 5) FOR THE CNAD'S TO REVIEW THE OUTPUT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE PRIOR TO THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT TO THE NAC IN MINISTERIAL SESSION. THIS SHOULD NOT, HOWEVER, BE VIEWED AS A DIMINUTION IN THE ROLE OF CNAD'S WHICH WILL BE CENTRAL IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ACTUAL PROJECTS.

4. THE FOLLOWING ARE ADDITIONAL POINTS BY WHICH MISSION SHOULD BE GUIDED:

A. WHILE IT IS CERTAINLY ACCEPTABLE TO US FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL TO CHAIR AD HOC COMMITTEE, AND FOR OTHER APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF TO PARTICIPATE, WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL TO KEEP THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE IN THE HANDS OF NATIONAL CONFIDENTIAL

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REPRESENTATIVES AND NOT PERMIT INTERNATIONAL STAFF TO DOMINATE THE PROCEEDINGS. ONE OF OUR REASONS FOR OPTING FOR A CENTRAL NAC ROLE WAS, NOT ONLY TO FACILITATE FRENCH PARTICIPATION, BUT TO BE SURE THAT THE POLITICAL ASPECTS WERE EMPHASIZED AND THAT OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR NATIONAL POLICY IN CAPITALS WERE ENGAGED IN THE FORMULATIVE PROCESS. IN OUR VIEW, PARTICIPATION BY SENIOR NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES IN THE CREATION OF STANDARDIZATION POLICY IS ESSENTIAL IN ORDER TO SECURE THE LONG-TERM POLITICAL COMMITMENT OF NATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND NATIONAL ESTABLISHMENTS.

B. WITH RESPECT TO THE PERMANENCY OF THE COMMITTEE, WE SEE IT FUNCTIONING ON AN AD HOC BASIS UNTIL ITS INITIAL TASKS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED, AT WHICH TIME CONSIDERATION

WOULD BE GIVEN TO HOW BEST TO PROCEED. SHOULD THIS "AD HOC" COMMITTEE PROVE TO BE AN EFFECTIVE MECHANISM, WE WOULD PROBABLY WISH TO SEE IT TAKE ON A MORE PERMANENT ROLE. ON THE OTHER HAND, SHOULD IT PROVE UNWIELDY, WE MIGHT WISH TO PURSUE SOME ALTERNATE APPROACH.

C. WHILE WE REALIZE THAT IT IS PROBABLY NO LONGER PRACTICABLE TO COMPLETE DRAFT GUIDELINES PRIOR TO THE DECEMBER MINISTERIALS, WE WOULD NOT LIKE TO SEE THE SLIPPAGE TO THE SPRING REMOVE THE URGENCY OF MOVING AHEAD SMARTLY. WE WOULD PREFER TO CALL FOR THE COMPLETION OF GUIDELINES ON A PRIORITY BASIS, WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THEY WOULD BE COMPLETED IN DRAFT NO LATER THAN THE SPRING MINISTERIALS.

5. EVEN IF PO IS APPROVED IN ITS CURRENT FORM AT OCTOBER 22 MEETING, MISSION SHOULD WORK TOWARD IMPROVING

IT ALONG THE FOREGOING LINES AS THIS EFFORT PROCEEDS. ONE APPROACH THAT MIGHT BE USEFUL IN THIS REGARD WOULD BE TO INDICATE IN APPROVING PO THAT SINCE COMMITTEE IS AD HOC, ITS MANDATE SHOULD BE EQUALLY FLEXIBLE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGES AND IMPROVEMENTS AS WELL. ADDITIONALLY, SHOULD PO BE APPROVED ESSENTIALLY IN PRESENT FORM, MISSION MAY WISH TO EMPHASIZE IN INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT THAT ESSENTIALLY WE SEE AD HOC GROUP'S ROLE AS SUPPORTING

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NAC, AND WE DO NOT BELIEVE PO SHOULD IN ANY WAY RESTRICT WORK OF COMMITTEE ON BROAD PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES. INGERSOLL

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